(c) whether the said medicine has been tested and found fit for use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):(a) and (b) The technology for an anti-cancer drug 'Etoposide' has been developed which involves the use of podophyllotoxin. It has been found to be useful for the treatment of cancer of lung, ovary, test sand lymphoma, etc. The brand name of the drug is 'Atocid'.

(c) and (d) Government has examined the efficacy and safety data of the medicine in consultation with cancer experts and has approved the drug for marketing.

Kala-Azar Disease

2010. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various parts of the country had been in the grip of Kala-azar during the last two months;

(b) if so, the names of the worse affected States and the number of persons died as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Kala-azar is endemic only in two States viz., Bihar and West Bengal. During the last two months, 258 deaths due to Kala-azar has been reported from West Bengal during the last two months.

(c) The following specific steps are being undertaken to contain the spread of this disease;

-Systematic ease detection & treatment of all patients with drugs like Sodium Stibu Gluconate, Pentamidine etc.

-Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual insecticidal spraying in affected areas

-with two rounds of DDT.

-Improvement of general sanitation in and around the house to eliminate breeding ground or sandfly, the vector for Kala-azar.

-Intensification of health education. activities for disease

-prevention.

-Praining of medical and para-medical personnel in the diagnosis and treatment of Kala-azar cases.

Literacy rate in tribal areas

2011. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATEL: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of literacy in tribal and backward areas;

(b) the efforts being made by the Government for spreading litercy in these areas;

(c) whether the number of school going children is still very less in tribal areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for increasing the percentage thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to 1981 census, the literacy rate amongst scheduled tribes was 16.35% for all age-groups. The literacy rate for the scheduled tribes according to 1991 census is not yet available.

(b) Universalisation of elementary education including non-formal education and the national Literacy to 80.00 miliion adult illiterates in the 15-35 age-group by 1995 forms an integral part of a larger programme of eradication of illiteracy in the country with special emphasis on the tribal and educationally backward areas.

(c) There has been a substantial increase in the enrollment of children belonging to scheduled tribes at all levels and particularly at the primary stage, which has increased from 22.8 lakhs in 1964-65 to 76.00 lakhs in 1988-89, which worked out to a growth rate of 5.1 as against the All India average growth of 2.9.

(d) and (e) A number of steps have been taken to strengthen the basis of educational programmes for the scheduled tribes. These include priority to tribal areas in the matter of opening of adult educatldn and non-formal education centres and coverage under 'Operation blackboard'; provision of educational institutions in are as predominantly inhabited by this community; provision of incentives like, scholarships, free studentships mid-day meals, uniforms, books and stationery; reservation of seats in educational institutions of higher learning; remedial and special coaching in these institutions; provision of coaching classes for competitive examination; preparation of text books, primes etc. in tribal languages through the Central Institute of Indian languages, the National Council of Educational Research and Training and the State Resource Centres of adlut education etc; post matric scholarships; and assistance to state government for construction of hotels and ashram schools.

(f) Does not arise.

Hunting of elephants in Jalpaiguri

2012. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether hunting of wild elephants has been permitted in Udlabadi area of Jaipaiguri of West Bengal,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of elephants or other wild animals killed during this year, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the killings in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Hunting of elephant is banned throughout the country. Permission can, however, be given by Chief Warden for hunting of such elephants that become dangerous to human life, in exercise of powers under Section 11 (1) (a) of the Wild Life (protection) Act, 1972. In the current financial year one such elephant was permitted to be hunted in the area around Udlabadi in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. No other wild animals have been killed in this area during this financial year.

(c) Steps taken to check the killing of wild animals are:-

(i) Hunting of wild animals has been banned in the country.

(ii) Trade in rare and endangered